

COMMUNITY

Nation selects new Preservation and Technology Center coordinator

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News
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Chasen Ross, YAN member was named the new coordinator of the Preservation and Technology Center (P&TC). The P&TC is located in the cultural center where craft displays, historical archives and special collections are stored.

Mr. Ross is replacing the late Judy Piner who was the director for several years.

Mr. Ross is the son of Lillian Raven Ross of Camp Verde and the grandson of the late Rebecca Smith Pavatea who led the need to preserve the Apache language for many years. Rebecca started the beginnings of the language revitalization program for the Yavapai-Apache community and this program has become the core of the cultural center's activities.

Mr. Ross's great grandparents are the late Tom and Lilly Smith.

With a comprehensive educational background, Mr. Ross said he is ready to assume the responsibilities of archiving the culture and language of the Yavapai and Apache people for the Nation.

Mr. Ross graduated from Central High School in Phoenix and enrolled in Phoenix

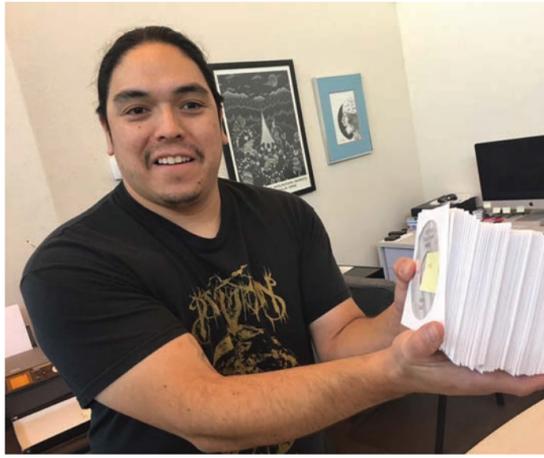
College where he first majored in Psychology. Subsequent to that, he switched his major to fine arts with courses in music, media arts and graduated with an Associate of Arts in Fine Arts. While at Phoenix College, he completed course work in sound recording and engineering. In addition, he completed classes in music theory and completing his liberal arts studies requirements.

Mr. Ross is a proficient guitar player learning on his own and then moving up to studying classical guitar while at Phoenix College. His favorite past-time now is playing heavy metal riffs on his electric guitar.

After Phoenix College, he enrolled at Arizona State University on the west campus in Glendale where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Mixed Media.

"They had a program there that was in my area of concentration in the Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance and that's where I got into filmmaking, editing, cinematography, directing and doing some score work (musical themes to accompany motion pictures). I got my hands pretty deep in the mix there," said Mr. Ross.

After Arizona State University and a brief break for a year, Mr. Ross enrolled at the newly established Zaki



Chasen Ross coming into the finish line with 1 year's worth of work for council meeting sound recordings. YAN News photo

Gordon Film School in Sedona in 2007 to study 'narrative film-making' in a one year program.

He received a Masters Certification in Narrative Filmmaking at the Sedona.

And if that wasn't enough, Mr. Ross returned to Tempe in the Phoenix area where he enrolled in the Conservatory for Recording Arts and Sciences, one of the top schools in the Nation for sounding recording for record and film industry.

"It was a very fast-paced 30-week program and 30 weeks seemed like it took forever. Literally, there were no days off. You're in school 6 days a week learning all aspects of recording engineer. The school is considered very prestigious and if you graduate from

there, you've really done something," said Mr. Ross about his intensive training.

In addition to his classroom training, Mr. Ross was also required to perform over 300 plus hours of internships to complete his sound recording school requirements. "After you complete the program, the internship shows that you know your area of expertise," he added.

If there was penance to be performed for learning the trade of sound mixing and recording, the 300+hour internship was the ultimate sacrifice for Mr. Ross.

To meet his internship requirements, he volunteered in small clubs around Tempe to mix their sounds for rock-n-roll bands and atmospheric music.

"If there was a show

going on, I would call up and assist in setting up the microphones, working with the sound mixing for the performances and call up various recording studios for volunteer work," said Mr. Ross.

With all of these experiences and education, Mr. Ross is ready.

He wants to create enthusiasm for children to learn the language by getting them out of the classroom and using a style that is more conducive to learning. Mr. Ross has a vision for his new role as the keeper of traditional languages and culture of the Yavapai and Apache.

"What I'd like to do in one of the areas of my focus is to hone in bridging the gaps between our elders and our youth in passing our language. I think I can do that via the technology that we have here, to make it less of a classroom environment for the children. I think that's where a lot of the adversity to learning a language and culture comes from—it's done too much in a classroom environment," he said.

This will require more hands-on experiences for children and Mr. Ross pointed out a language learning activity that involves an immersion process where elders communicate only in their respective languages to communicate with new language

learners during these language classes.

This activity could revolve around a cooking class where the directions and questions are asked only in the native language according to Mr. Ross. "So, the elder will not speak one word of English but only in the respective language Yavapai or Apache," he said.

"If you can make this fun, make it creative with more hands-on, and because of technology—the kids want to get their hands-on cameras, the computers and that's the avenue of learning now," said Mr. Ross.

Mr. Ross worked closely with the late Judy Piner for about 5 years at the Nation's P&TC on a part-time basis. Recently, with a contract with the Nation, he has undertaken the task of downloading raw recordings of council meetings from 1999 to 2012 and transferred them to CD archives which has taken him over a year.

With just 25 tapes left of the some 1500 tapes he transferred to CDs, Mr. Ross will finally assume his full-time role as coordinator of the P&TC for the Nation which will enhance the overall objectives of his department.

YAN Apache culture department adds new cultural specialist

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

Barbara Harney-McCabe, Apache, is the new Apache cultural specialist for the YAN Apache culture department. Mrs. McCabe grew up on the San Carlos Indian Reservation in eastern Arizona. Her new responsibilities will be to teach all aspects of the Apache culture including teaching crafts at the culture center.

Mrs. McCabe spent her later years living among the Navajo people for many years in Window Rock where she married into the social system.

Her and her husband

make Camp Verde their home since November 2007. Mrs. McCabe has made connections to the Apache community by participating in the cultural activities over the years and serving on the Apache culture advisory committee for several years.

Mrs. McCabe is fluent in the Apache language and is steeped in Apache culture and knows the stories to be told in the winter when the first snow falls. An interesting note about her is that she has the distinction of participating in the first Miss Indian Arizona in 1960 and was chosen in the top 10 contestants then finally down to the top 5. That was the year



Barbara McCabe is the new Apache cultural specialist for the Apache culture department YAN News photo

when Veronica Homer of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) was chosen as Miss Indian Arizona.

"I remember when I got a letter from the chairman (San Carlos Apache Tribe) and he congratulated me" she recalls. Mrs. McCabe remembers meeting celebrities like the Ink Spots and Les Paul/Mary Ford, two prominent musicians in the field at the time who performed during that time. There were also interviews by the Arizona Republic/Gazette at the time and now, Mrs. McCabe wants to find those interviews for posterity.

But that was not the end for Mrs. McCabe as she was selected by the San Carlos Apache tribal council members as the

new Miss San Carlos Apache that same year. She also remembers the time in the late 50s and early 60's when she was the drum majorette at the Phoenix Indian School where many of the Yavapai and Apache also attended school.

Mrs. McCabe traces her family roots to Clarkdale where grandfather Gilbert Harney's mother was born. Her name was So'woy-yeh or wild onion (Clara Harney). Today, Mrs. McCabe's sister Mary Harney Gallagher lives in Middle Verde. Although Mrs. McCabe is an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, she feels a deep connection to the people here on YAN she said.

Mrs. McCabe is committed to the teaching of the Apache language and the Apache culture department is delegated with the responsibility of teaching Apache at the culture center including the main schools in Verde Valley plus the Montessori School in Middle Verde.

Mrs. McCabe said that each group, the Yavapai and the Apache switch off teaching language at both Mingus High School and Camp Verde High School where the frequency of teaching Apache will be more often instead of once a month like in the past she said.

"There is a need for the language (to be taught in the schools) and is extremely important," said Mrs. McCabe. When only very few Apaches can speak Apache fluently on the Nation is a concern to her.

"If you don't know your language, how can you identify yourself as an Apache if you don't speak or understand it, your ceremonies, your special way of prayer that makes you unique and different," she added.

When the teaching of Apache is in process, Mrs. McCabe encourages people to try. "It's Ok to make mistakes if you try to talk it. There's nothing wrong with it. The need is strong here (YAN) but I don't see a lot of interest," she said. "The need is greater than you realize."

Mrs. McCabe also said that if people don't know their traditional language, the government might find an excuse to do away with the reservations system. "The government (may) recognize us that way

and they can come up and say, 'You don't have anything, you're not who you say you are. We don't need to be taking care of you! At the stroke of a pen, it could happen,' Mrs. McCabe was emphatic.

Not all is lost as Mrs. McCabe knows that the teaching of Apache has had some good results especially at the Day Care. "They seem to retain what you teach them until the next week because I ask them and they remember," she added.

In teaching the crafts classes, she uses Apache to give directions and she cited the example of working with the rec kids whom she spoke to in Apache during the lessons.

Mrs. McCabe said the cultural offerings by the Apache culture department needs to be utilized to the optimum on a daily basis. "I'm here on a daily basis—here early in the morning around 7 for anyone that wants to sit down and go over language before they go to work," she said.

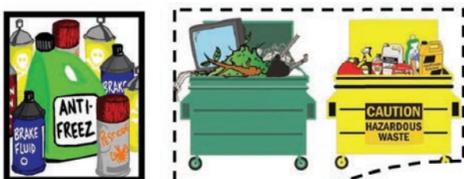
On the Yavapai-Apache Nation in the Verde Valley there are about 12 Apache speakers left with the youngest being Arlan Carlton of Rimrock.

Coming soon!

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

What is household hazardous waste?

Products containing corrosive, toxic or flammable ingredients are household hazardous wastes (HHW). These materials include common household items such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides. Improper disposal can pollute air, water or soil and pose a threat to human health.



For more information contact Yavapai Apache Nation Environmental Protection Department

(928) 649-6953 Specialist
(928) 649-6952 Supervisor
(928) 649-6957 Manager

Created by Franklin Garner
Summer Youth Worker